



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
FREEBRIDGE LYNN.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938.



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN.

Annual Report by Dr. O. L. Appleton, Medical Officer of Health,
for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	72,070 acres
Population	9,833
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	3,094
Rateable Value and Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£27,729—£119

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Agriculture is the main industry of the District. There is a growing residential population at South Wootton adjoining King's Lynn. Unemployment is not marked and chiefly occurs at seasonable periods of the year. The building of a large Government Aerodrome just near the border of the District has given employment to a large number of men.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>
Live Births :	Legitimate	..	..	..	138	66	72
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	10	5	5
					148	71	77
Still Births :	Legitimate	..	..	..	6	3	3
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	nil.	nil.	nil.
					6	3	3
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population							15·05
Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births					..	..	15·66

Deaths.	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>
	122	62	60

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12·40

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil.
No. 30.	Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age.

						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1

SECTION A—(Contd).

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age.

All Infants, per 1,000 Live Births	.. .. .	60·80
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	.. .. .	57·89
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births		100·00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	19
„ „ Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.. .. .	Nil.

Comparability Factor — 0·73

No specially noteworthy cause of invalidity during the year. Unemployment has not exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

These remain the same as in previous years and reports.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) **Water.** No serious shortage has come to my notice. The piped supply to Great Massingham from the Rural District Council's Well at Jubilee Terrace has been completed and is now in operation. Needless to say, this is much appreciated and I would commend similar schemes to the notice of other villages in the area. In too many cases, villages have to rely on a water supply, the sources of which are of indifferent quality and reliability.
- (ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** Substantially the same as in previous years, but gradual improvements are taking place as new houses are being built. The scheme for sewerage South Wootton in conjunction with the Corporation of King's Lynn has not yet been completed.
2. **Rivers and Streams.** No action necessary.
3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** Great improvement in this respect is seen in the new houses.
- (ii) **Public Cleansing.** Some villages have a public scavenging service, but in many cases there is no system. Local effort is to be desired in this respect.
- (iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** See report of Sanitary Inspector.
- (iv) **Shops and Offices.** No action necessary.
- (v) **Camping Sites.** No licensed Camping Sites. A few casual Caravan-dwellers only.
- (vi) **Smoke Abatement.** No action necessary.
- (vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.** None in District.

SECTION C—(Contd.)

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.** No action necessary.

4. **Schools.** The Education Committee of the Norfolk County Council and the County School Medical Officer are primarily responsible for the sanitary condition and water supply of Schools, and only occasionally is my notice drawn to any defect. As far as I am able to observe, conditions are satisfactory. Every precaution is taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The Rural District Council continues to pursue a forward policy. Old houses have been demolished, others re-conditioned and new houses with every amenity have been built in striking contrast to the old and insanitary cottages they have displaced.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 235 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 306 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | 87 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 98 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. | 28 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 102 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	69
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 15 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) | By Owners | 13 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners .. | Nil. |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 7 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |

SECTION D—(Contd.)

(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (made in previous years)	23

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..	22
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	22
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	116
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	19
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report :—	

Overcrowding to a large extent governs the policy of the Council in the erection of new houses and the allocation to them of suitable tenants.

Number of Houses built by Local Authority :

Middleton	22
Leziate	8
Castleacre	18
West Winch	4
Pentney	4

Total .. 56

By other persons :

Grimston	6
Leziate	5
Middleton	1
Pentney	1
North Runeton	7
South Wootton	8
Castleacre	1
Great Massingham	1
Sandringham	2
East Winch	1
North Wootton	1

Total .. 34

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Every effort is made to ensure a pure milk supply. Cowsheds are inspected and milk samples are taken for examination. The Sanitary Inspector is fully alive to the importance of this question and does his best to cope with it.

Cowkeepers Registered	..	..	..	127
Accredited Producers	..	..	..	10

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector performs the duties of Inspector under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. There are Six Registered Slaughter-houses in the District.

(c) Adulteration. No action necessary.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

No action necessary. Facilities exist at the County Laboratory, Norwich.

(e) Nutrition. No special work undertaken.

(f) Shell-Fish (*Molluscan*). No Shell-fish beds or layings in the District.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known)	316	104	85	812	1259
Number Inspected	282	82	74	610	1156
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	1	1	12	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	24	31	5	52	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	—	—	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	11	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The District has again been free from any serious epidemic of Infectious Disease as is shown in the Form below.

The new County Isolation Hospital is now open and available for the reception of cases.

SECTION F—(Contd.)

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever.. .. .	6	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria	3	Nil.	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia	1	Nil.	3
Other diseases generally notifiable :			
Erysipelas	1	Nil.	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil.	Nil.
Other diseases notifiable locally ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

- (a) **Prevention of Blindness.** No action necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) **Tuberculosis.** No action taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	—	2	4	1	—	—

Concluding Remarks :—

I am able to again remark upon the small incidence of infectious disease. The fact that there were only six notifications of Scarlet Fever and three of Diphtheria emphasises this.

The Birth Rate is slightly higher than 1937, whilst the Death Rate is about the same.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales is 15·1 (Freebridge Lynn 15·6). Death Rate 11·6 (Freebridge Lynn 12·4). There is ample proof that the amenities of life in rural areas show great improvement. Better housing, water supply and sanitation and the introduction of electric power for lighting, etc. Much, of course, remains to be done, but compare conditions of 20 or 30 years ago with the present.

SECTION F—(Contd.)

NUMBER and CAUSES of DEATH—1938.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Influenza	—	—
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	1
10. Other Tuberculosis	—	—
11. Syphilis	—	1
12. General Paralysis of Insane, Tabes, &c.	—	—
13. Cancer	7	12
14. Diabetes	—	3
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	3	5
16. Heart Disease	15	12
17. Aneurysm	—	1
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	5
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1
20. Bronchitis	2	1
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
22. Peptic Ulcer	3	1
23. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—
24. Appendicitis	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
26. Other Liver Diseases	—	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	3
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	—
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, &c.	3	4
32. Senility	3	5
33. Suicide	—	—
34. Other Violence	6	—
35. Other defined Diseases	4	3
36. Ill-defined or Not Known	—	—
37. Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	—	—
TOTALS	62	60

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To The Chairman, and Members of The Freebridge Lynn R.D.C.

Gentlemen,

I respectfully beg to submit my first Annual Report, for the Year ending December 31st, 1938.

HOUSING.

There are approximately 3,094 dwelling-houses in the District ; 70% of these represent houses suitable for occupation by the working classes. The number of new houses erected during the year, by private enterprise, was 34. For all records *re* Housing Inspections and Meat and Food Inspection, see Report of the Medical Officer of Health. As a result of a Public Inquiry, held on January 20th, four Clearance Areas, made by the Council, were confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—(Contd.)

“ HOUSING RURAL WORKERS’ ” ACT.

During the year a number of applications for grants (in all, totalling 23 houses) have been made ; of these, only 3 qualified, within the meaning of the Act, and of the remainder that were turned down, four were in such a state as to be classed under Section 11 Housing Act, 1936, and consequently, Demolition Orders were made upon them.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Supplies, which are drawn principally from wells and springs, have been fairly adequate throughout the year. Doubt as to quality was expressed in a few instances, and samples were then taken, but no serious complaints have been received. The work of laying piped supplies have been undertaken in Great Massingham.

SEWERS and DRAINS.

Only two Parishes in the Council's District are sewered. A little trouble was experienced with a Parochial Sewer at North Runcton, but this was soon remedied, and an additional access chamber was constructed, so that, should further blockage arise, it may be removed by rodding purposes.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

There have been no serious complaints. A few workshops and work-places were visited, in connection with proper and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There have been two complaints of effluvia arising from establishments engaged in bone-boiling ; these premises were visited, and no further complaints have been received.

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

(1) **Housing Inspections :** See Report of Medical Officer.

(2) **Public Health Inspections :** (Nuisances, &c.).

Number of Nuisances Abated by Informal Action .. 122

Number of Inspections made for the purpose .. 158

Number abated by serving of Statutory Notices :—

Details of Nuisances Abated.

	<i>After Informal Action.</i>	<i>After Statutory Action.</i>
1. Overcrowding	3	—
2. Smoke	Nil.	—
3. Accumulation of Refuse	33	—
4. Foul Ditches, Ponds, &c.	21	1
5. Keeping of Animals	10	—
6. Dampness	16	—
7. Defective Yards, Paving, &c.	5	—
8. Drains, Privies, &c.	32	—
9. Vapours, &c.	2	—

One of the most serious nuisances, owing to the frequency, with which it arose, was that of the Council Sewer at South Wootton.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—(Contd.)

As reported on January 20th, the filter receiving the sewage, before its discharge to the dyke, was most crudely constructed, and also the filtering material used was of an unsuitable nature ; as a partial temporary measure, at least, a new material was installed, which, to a certain degree, lessened the nuisance. It is to be hoped that the sewerage of the Parish, which has been in hand for a considerable length of time, will soon be brought about.

(3) Tents, Vans, Sheds :—

A number of complaints concerning caravans were received during the year. In the majority of cases the complaints were abated without any undue difficulty, but we have been hampered to a considerable degree owing to the fact that byelaws, in respect to tents, vans, &c., have never been adopted by the Council ; neither has advantage been taken of the Public Health Act, 1936, which gives power to licence caravan sites.

Recently, however, these have been put to the Council, and have been adopted.

(4) Inspections :—

Under Building Byelaws :—

Number of Sites Inspected	36
Number of Foundations Inspected	32
Number of New Drains Inspected	33

Under Public Health Act :—

Number of old drains reconstructed	8
Number of old drains repaired	10

The application of a water test to all *new* drains was enforced during the year. In some cases defects were found in new drainage systems and were rejected until they were rendered water-tight.

(5) Infectious Diseases :—

Number of Notifications received	9
Number of Visits and Re-visits made	14
Number of Rooms disinfected	9
Number of Rooms stripped and cleansed	2

In all cases, when visits were made, the householder was supplied with a sufficient quantity of disinfectant. During last year a new filing system of all records of investigations was adopted ; this is known as the card system, and is a distinct improvement on previous methods.

(6) Bakehouses :—

Number on Register	8
Number of Underground Bakehouses	Nil.
Number of Inspections made	14
Number of Contraventions found	1
Number Remedied	1

(7) Slaughterhouses :—

Number on Register	6
Number of Inspections made	346
Number of Contraventions	4
Number of Contraventions remedied	4

In addition, 28 travelling butchers' vans have been inspected.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—(Contd.)

(8) (A) Cowsheds and Dairies :—

Number on Register	127
Number of Inspections made	154
Number of Contraventions found	31
Number of Contraventions remedied—most of them in hand.	
Number of Milch Cows in District .. (approx.)	1150

All arrangements for Veterinary inspection of cows is made by the County Council.

(B) Milk Sampling :—

Number of Accredited Producers	10
Number of Accredited Producers' Milk Samples taken	58

During the year, one accredited farm premises changed ownership, but a licence was still continued.

Also two fresh applications for an accredited licence were received ; one was granted, but the other was suspended, pending further alterations to the premises, and satisfactory milk samples forthcoming. There was no disease attributable to milk during the year.

(9) **Meat and Food.** See Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

(10) Water Sampling :—

During the year 21 water samples were taken, eleven for chemical analysis only, and ten for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

In a number of instances, whilst no actual danger was present in the water, they were far from being of a normal standard, as desired, but only in one case however, was it necessary to close the well. During the year it was put to the Council to consider the installation of a piped supply for the Parishes of Roydon, Grimston and Gayton. The matter was "left for the present," but it was agreed that consideration must be given to such a scheme at a later date.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. WATKINS.